Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 103 34 274.5 filed July 25, 2003. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/EP2004/008202 filed July 22, 2004. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 2, after line 12, please add the following new paragraphs:

--From GB 2 216 081 A a dash panel, on the side of the passenger compartment, for motor vehicles is known, which dash panel comprises a heavy layer with spacer ribs formed thereon, and which dash panel is made as a moulded part from thermoplastic elastomer in the strand placement mould press method. To achieve relatively good rigidity of the lining, the spacer ribs are designed as webs of a mesh. In one embodiment the dash panel additionally comprises a sound absorber layer which comprises slits for positively-locking and frictionally-locking accommodation of the web-shaped spacer ribs.

DE 101 00 747 A1 discloses a method for producing an airbag cover with a decorative plaque attached thereto. In one embodiment the main part of the plaque comprises a plural number of plug-in parts that are accommodated by corresponding apertures in the airbag cover so as to position the plaque in relation to the airbag cover. In this arrangements means for hot plugging the plaque to the airbag cover can be provided.

DE 41 17 797 A1 relates to a method for recycling thermoplastic waste to form construction elements. In this arrangement thermoplastic waste that has been found safe from the point of view of hygiene, such as plastic cups, plastic bottles etc. in their cold state and overlapping in area, are flattened, spot welded together and formed into a plate by means of a tool that is heatable and comprises tips.--

Page 2, line 7 from below, to page 3, line 12, amend this paragraph to read as follows: --

As far as the method is concerned, this object is met by a method with the ~~features~~ characteristics of claim 1. The method according to the invention essentially comprises the following steps:

- placing a certain volume of a heavy-layer material as a plasticized compound into an open cavity of a press comprising a lower die and an upper die;

- closing the press, wherein the plasticized compound is extrusion-pressed into the form of the heavy layer defined by the lower die and the upper die;

- opening the press after the heavy layer has attained nondeformability;

- arranging the sound attenuation layer in the form of a web, a blank or an injection moulded part on the heavy layer; ~~and~~

- partial welding together of the heavy layer and the sound attenuation layer ~~by closing the press or~~ in the press or in a further press ~~and by activating~~ in that several welding elements that are delimited in area and that are integrated in the press or in the further press are activated; and

- thermal forming of the sound attenuation layer during the partial welding together with the heavy layer so that the sound attenuation layer is given a profile structure,

wherein the sound attenuation layer is dimensioned in such a way in relation to the heavy layer that the circumference of the sound attenuation layer reaches beyond the circumference of the heavy layer on one or several sections or on the entire circumference.--

Page 3, amend the paragraph beginning on line 13 as follows: --

The sound-insulating composite component ~~has the features stated in claim 13~~ according to the invention features of the characteristics stated in claim 32. It is essentially characterised in that its heavy layer is formed as a moulded part by extrusion-pressing a plasticized plastic compound, fed-in in the strand placement process, from the group of thermoplastic elastomers, comprises regions of different thickness and/or density and is welded to a sound attenuation layer only in some parts, wherein the sound attenuation layer has a profile structure that is formed by thermal forming, and at least in some sections the circumference of the sound attenuation layer reaches beyond the circumference of the heavy layer.--

Same page, line 9 from below, to page 4, line 16, amend this paragraph to read as follows: --

The method according to the invention provides the opportunity to produce relatively large acoustically effective pieces of cladding, in particular ~~firewall cladding~~ dash panels for automotive use, comparatively economically. For, the method according to the invention makes it possible also to produce relatively large-area heavy layers from such plasticizable plastic compounds, in particular thermoplastic elastomers, that can be produced in injection moulding tools only with considerable difficulties, for example only with the use of expensively constructed injection moulding tools, or only with the addition of additives that have an influence on the flow characteristics. In contrast to this, the press tools required for implementing the method according to the invention are of comparatively simple construction and are thus avialable cost-efficient. During recycling of composite components according to the invention, the fact that the heavy layer and the sound attenuation layer are not interconnected over the entire area but instead are only partially connected, makes separation largely according to type between the heavy layer and the sound attenuation layer relatively easy. Furthermore, the method according to the invention makes possible essentially waste-free production of generic composite components.--

Page 4, line 5 from below, amend this paragraph to read as follows:

--Below, the invention is explained in more detail with reference to a drawing showing ~~several~~ an embodiments. The following are diagrammatically shown:--

Page 5, lines 14 to 18, amend the paragraph to read as follows: --

Fig. 6 a cross-sectional view of the form tools according to Fig. 4 in their re-opened state, in which a composite component according to the invention, produced with the form tools, is ejected[;]. --

Same page, line 19, to page 6, line 10 from below, delete these paragraphs: --

~~Fig. 7 a cross-sectional view of the lower die and the upper die of a mould press according to a further embodiment in their open state;~~

~~Fig. 8 a cross-sectional view of the form tools according to Fig. 7 in their closed state;~~

~~Fig. 9 a cross-sectional view of the form tools according to Fig. 7 in their re-opened state, wherein between the form tools a web section or a blank made of sound attenuation material is arranged above the moulded part that has previously been made~~

~~with the form tools;~~

~~Fig. 10 a cross-sectional view of the form tools according to Fig. 7 in their re-closed state, in which the web section or blank made of sound attenuation material is pressed onto the moulded part that has previously been produced using the form tools;~~

~~Fig. 11 a cross-sectional view of the form tools according to Fig. 7 in their closed state, in which the web section or blank made of sound attenuation material is pressed onto the moulded part that has previously been produced using the form tools, and in which the web section or blank made of sound attenuation material has been cut on the margin side; and~~

~~Fig. 12 a cross-sectional view of the form tools according to Fig. 7 in their re-opened state, in which a composite part according to the invention, produced with the form tools, is ejected.~~ -

Page 13, line 6 from below, to page 16, line 4, delete these paragraphs as follows: --

~~A further embodiment of the invention is described below with reference to Figures 7 to 12. In this embodiment partial~~

welding together of the heavy layer 6' and the sound attenuation layer 17 takes place with the same form tools 40, 41 with which previously the heavy layer 6' has been produced by extrusion. However, unlike the situation in the embodiment according to Figures 1 to 6, the lower die 40 and the circumferential frame-shaped positive edge 42 are not formed in one piece but instead are separate, wherein the positive edge 42 that encloses the lower die 40 with little play can be raised and lowered relative to the lower die 40.

In order to produce the heavy layer 6' of the composite component 38' according to the invention, the positive edge 42 is first raised so that it forms an open cavity 3' with the lower die 40, into which cavity - as is the case in the first-described embodiment - in the strand placement process a specified volume of a heavy layer material is placed as a plasticized compound 5 (compare Fig. 7).

After the plasticized heavy layer compound 5 has been placed into the open cavity 3', the upper die 41 is lowered so that the compound 5 in the cavity defined by the upper die and the lower die as well as by the positive edge 42 is extruded into the form of the heavy layer 6'.

The lower die 40 again comprises several elevations 7', 8'

~~which are associated with correspondingly formed depressions 9', 10' in the underside of the upper die 41. The diagram also shows that the heavy layer 6' produced with the form tools 40, 41 comprises regions of different thickness.~~

~~To generate an opening in the composite component 38' to be produced the lower die 40 also comprises a pin-shaped projection 12' which is associated with a corresponding hole or recess 13' in the upper die 41. The pin-shaped projection 12' and the frame-shaped positive edge 42 each comprise circumferential cutting edges 43, 44.~~

~~As soon as the heavy layer 6' has a sufficient nondeformability, the form tools 40, 41 are opened again. At the same time the positive edge 42 is lowered to such an extent that its top and the top of the lower die 40 are situated approximately on the same level. After this, a web section of a sound attenuation layer 17' is placed between the open form tools 40, 41. As shown in Fig. 9 the web section of the sound attenuation layer 17' can protrude beyond the outer edges of the form tools 40, 41.~~

~~Subsequently the form tools 40, 41 are closed again, wherein the cutting edge 44 of the pin-shaped projection 12' penetrates the sound attenuation layer 17' and punches out a piece of the~~

~~layer 17' (Fig. 10). While the sound attenuation layer 17' and the heavy layer 6' are compressed, the positive edge 42 is raised so that its circumferential cutting edge 43 cuts off the sections of the sound attenuation layer 17', which sections protrude laterally from the form tools 40, 41 (compare Figures 10 and 11).~~

~~In this way the sound attenuation layer 17' is embossed on top of the heavy layer 6', wherein for point-welding together the sound attenuation layer 17' and the heavy layer 6' again several welding elements 39' that are delimited in area are integrated in the upper die 41. In the drawing these welding elements 39' are diagrammatically shown in the form of circles. At the same time as spot-welding, thermal deformation of the sound attenuation layer 17' takes place. To avoid repetition, in this regard reference is made to the above explanations in relation to Fig. 5.~~

~~Finally, the form tools 40, 41 are moved apart again and the finished composite component 38' is ejected for removal by means of the ejection elements 16'' integrated in the lower die 40.~~

Page 16, lines 5-13, amend this paragraph to read as follows:

--The performance of the invention is not limited to the embodiments described above. Instead, several variants are imaginable which, even with a basically different design, make

use of the scope and nature of the invention. For example, for spot-welding the heavy layer 6~~, 6'~~ together with the sound attenuation layer 17~~, 17'~~, the welding elements 39~~, 39'~~ can, additionally or as an alternative, also be integrated in the lower die 18 or 40.--